

WATER WEEK IN KENTUCKY

What is an Ag BMP?

Agricultural Best Management Practices (or BMPs) are practical, cost effective actions that agricultural producers can take to conserve water and reduce the amount of pesticides, fertilizers, animal waste and other pollutants entering our creeks and rivers. BMPs are designed to protect water quality while maintaining or even improving agricultural production.



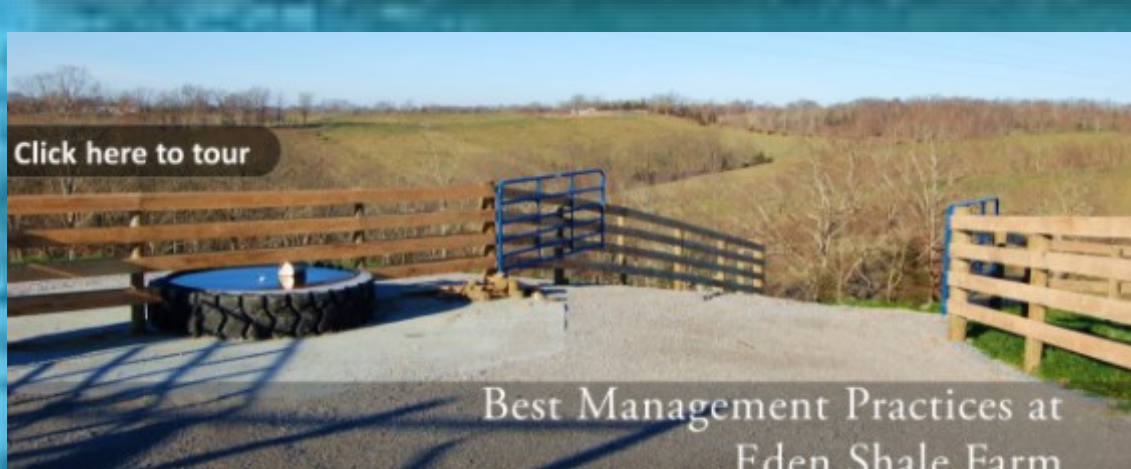
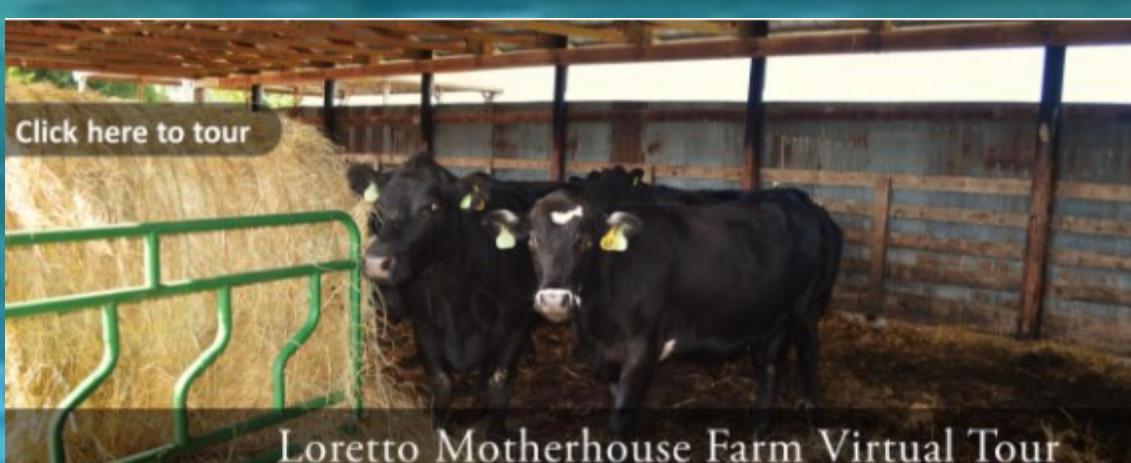
Photos courtesy of UK Extension

Examples of BMPs

- Cover cropping.
- Nutrient (fertilizer) management to determine nutrient needs and sources and manage nutrient applications (including manure) to minimize impacts to water resources.
- Irrigation management to address the method and scheduling of irrigation to reduce water and nutrient losses to the environment.
- Water resource protection using buffers, setbacks and swales to reduce or prevent the transport of sediments and nutrients from production areas to waterbodies.
- Fencing livestock out of stream areas and providing alternative water sources to prevent stream bank erosion and contamination from animal waste.



Take a Virtual BMP Tour!



BMPs in Action

UK Cooperative Extension, the UK Department of Biosystems & Agricultural Engineering, and private land owners like the KY Beef Network and the Sisters of Loretto Motherhouse Farm have teamed up to install new and innovative Best Management Practices that can then be used by the public!

Click on the pictures to take a virtual tour of these farms to see what practices they have been testing out, and then go see them in person to learn more.

BMP Resources for Producers

Knowing where to start with BMPs in your ag operation can be intimidating. Luckily there are many resources to help you get started and many financial assistance programs that can help pay for you to install the practices on your farm! Read on to get started...



KY Ag Water Quality Planning Tool

The Kentucky Agriculture Water Quality Plan is basically a compilation of BMPs from six different areas: silviculture, pesticides and fertilizers, farmstead, crops, livestock and streams and other waters. Use the Ag Planning Tool to assess your farm and learn how you can improve your operation using BMPs. Click the picture to learn more!

NRCS Assistance

Do you farm or ranch and want to make improvements to the land that you own or lease? NRCS offers technical and financial assistance to help farmers, ranchers and forest managers. Click the picture to learn how you can get started with NRCS.



KSU Third Thursday Thing

A monthly sustainable agriculture workshop designed for small farmers, beginning farmers and ag professionals. Click the picture to see what is being offered this month at KSU's Harold R. Benson Research and Demonstration Farm.